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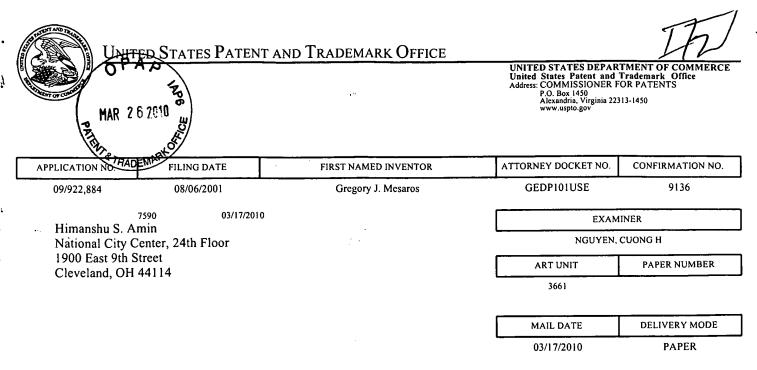


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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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1. The reply brief filed has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

The examiner rejected pending claims <u>because applicant claims what</u> cited references already taught as applicant own intellectual property.

As best interpretations, the art of record suggest all features of the respective claims.

## **CONCLUSION**

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759 (email address: cuong.nguyen@uspto.gov). The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/922,884

Art Unit: 3661

/CUONG NGUYEN/ Primary Examiner Art Unit 3661 Page 3